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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/517,654 | 12/13/2004 | Junichi Atsuta | 1419.1100 | 1369 |

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| EXAMINER |
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WAGGONER, TIMOTHY R

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3651

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/517,654 | Applicant(s) ATSUTA, JUNICHI | |
| | Examiner Timothy R. Waggoner | Art Unit 3651 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/13/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 13-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/13/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification defines the opening in the top of the frame to be used for loading items with out removing the dispenser from the frame (paragraph 3 page 5), and is in contradiction with the paragraph it refers to which states that the opening in the frame is for the dispenser to be inserted or removed (paragraph 2 page 5), in view of the drawings which do not support the abilities in paragraph 2 page 5, examiner believes this part of the specification was an error in translation.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 1-3 recite the limitation a "fixing section" the use of the "fixing section" in claim 1 differs from that of claims 2 and 3.

Claim 4 fails to positively identify the claimed element "a case body". It is not distinct whether "a case body" is actually part of the claimed combination. Positive identification of "a case body" is required.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the packaged commodity dispensing device" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 1,8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: defining what "fit from forward" and "fit into frame from forward" it is unclear as to what these phrases mean as they don't have corresponding physical elements of a frame.

The term "clean" in claims 11 and 12 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "clean" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The term "clean" is indefinite because it is a subjective term.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the base" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

All 35 USC § 102 rejections are based on the examiners best understanding of the claims in view of the 35 USC § 112 issues.

Claims 1-4,10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marrocco USPN 5,996,841.

(Re claim 1) “a packaged commodity dispensing machine to dispense a packaged commodity” (30 figure 2). “a frame into which the packaged commodity dispensing machine is permitted to detachably fit from forward” (30 figure 2). “a fixing section to fix the packaged commodity dispensing machine in a state of fitting into the frame” (72 figure 5)

(Re claim 2) “the frame is a plurality of frames (figure 9) ...piled in an upper and lower direction ... and a fixing section fixes the frames in a piled state (11 figure 1)”.

(Re claim 3) “the frame is a plurality of frames (figure 9) ...arranged in a lateral direction ... and a fixing section fixes the frames in a piled state (70 figure 9)”.

(Re claim 4) “a commodity supply opening is formed in an upper surface of a case body” (50 figure 2)

(Re claim 10) "a base which is permitted to detachably be fixed to a bottom of the frame" (70 figure 9)

(Re claim 11) "a clean box which is permitted to detachably fit into the frame" (48 figure 2)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 13-19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. USPNs 6,119,892, 5,947,328 and 3,390,753.

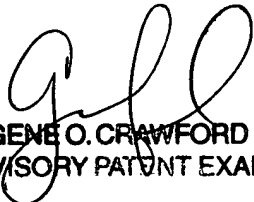
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy R. Waggoner whose telephone number is (571) 272-8204. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 8am-2pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3651

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TRW


GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER